

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant thanks the examiner for the indication that claims 11 and 12 are allowed.

Claims 1, 6 and 10 have been amended to replace the term "means."

The drawings are objected to. In Figs. 15, 16, and 18, the legend –Prior Art– has been added.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior of Fig. 16 in view of Kawana (U.S. Patent No. 5,907,748). For at least the following reasons, the examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kawana does not disclose or suggest "electric supply unit which is electrically and mechanically connected to the image forming unit through terminals to supply predetermined electric power to the photoconductor, the charger, and the developing roller of the image forming unit, wherein the image forming unit is moved in a widthwise direction of the intermediate transfer member so as to be connected to the electric supply unit" as recited in claim 1.

Kawana discloses an EEPROM 207 inserted into a connector 196 (col. 9, lines 2-6), which in turn is attached to the side of the photosensitive drum cartridge 199 (Fig. 7; lines 47-53). In Kawana, the EEPROM 207 is the memory of the photosensitive drum 100. Thus, the Kawana EEPROM 207 is not an electric supply unit to supply the electric power to the photoconductor, the charger, and the developing roller of the image forming unit.

Furthermore, Kawana discloses the voltage Vcc is supplied to the EEPROM 207 (Fig. 5; col. 9, lines 12-13), not to photosensitive drum 100. In fact, Kawana does not disclose or suggest how an electric power is supplied to the photosensitive drum cartridge 199. Kawana also fails to disclose or suggest that the photosensitive drum cartridge 199 moves in the widthwise direction of the intermediate transfer member. Thus, Kawana fails to disclose or suggest an image forming unit moved in the

widthwise direction of the intermediate transfer member so as to be connected to the electric supply unit.

Therefore, Kawana does not disclose all the elements of the claimed invention.

With regards to claim 2, Kawana does not disclose or suggest “a power supply unit provided in the main body of the image forming apparatus to supply electric power to the image forming unit, wherein a direction in which the image forming unit is installed in the image forming apparatus is a direction parallel to a portion of a surface of the transfer belt, and electrical contact between the power supply unit and the image forming unit is effected in the installing direction at an end portion in the installing direction of the image forming unit” as recited in claim 2.

As mentioned previously in claim 1, Kawana discloses an EEPROM 207 inserted into a connector 196 (col. 9, lines 2-6), which in turn is attached to the side of the photosensitive drum cartridge 199 (Fig. 7; lines 47-53). In Kawana, the EEPROM 207 is the memory of the photosensitive drum 100, and not a power supply unit to supply the electric power to the image forming unit including the photoconductor drum, the charging roller, and the developing roller. Furthermore, Kawana discloses the voltage Vcc is supplied to the EEPROM 207 (Fig. 5; col. 9, lines 12-13), not to photosensitive drum 100. Kawana does not disclose or suggest how an electric power is supplied to the photosensitive drum cartridge 199. Thus, Kawana fails to disclose or suggest how the photosensitive drum cartridge 199 is connected to a power supply unit. Kawana also fails to disclose or suggest that the photosensitive drum cartridge 199 is installed in a direction parallel to a portion of the surface of a transfer belt. Therefore, Kawana does not disclose all the elements of the claimed invention.

With regards to claim 6, Kawana does not disclose or suggest “a power supply unit provided in the main body of the image forming apparatus to supply electric power to the image forming unit, wherein the photoconductor drum, the charging roller, and the developing roller are provided in parallel to a longitudinal direction of the image forming unit, the image forming unit has longitudinally connecting means for mechanically connecting the power supply unit and the image forming unit in the longitudinal direction at an end portion in the longitudinal direction of the image forming unit, and the supply of the electric power from the power supply unit to the image forming unit is effected through the

longitudinally connecting means” as recited in claim 6.

As mentioned previously, Kawana discloses an EEPROM 207 inserted into a connector 196 (col. 9, lines 2-6), which in turn is attached to the side of the photosensitive drum cartridge 199 (Fig. 7; lines 47-53). In Kawana, the EEPROM 207 is the memory of the photosensitive drum 100, and not a power supply unit to supply the electric power to the image forming unit including the photoconductor drum, the charging roller, and the developing roller. Kawana also discloses the voltage Vcc is supplied to the EEPROM 207 (Fig. 5; col. 9, lines 12-13), not to photosensitive drum 100. Kawana does not disclose or suggest how an electric power is supplied to the photosensitive drum cartridge 199. Thus, Kawana fails to disclose or suggest how the photosensitive drum cartridge 199 is connected to a power supply unit. Therefore, Kawana does not disclose all the elements of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, there is no suggestion or motivation for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use Kawana to modify a conventional image forming apparatus to arrive at the claimed invention. Kawana consists of a connector with a memory for the photosensitive drum attached to a side of the photosensitive drum cartridge. There is no suggestion or motivation in Kawana to modify the connector to be a power supply unit to supply the electric power to the photoconductor, the charger, and the developing roller of the image forming unit. Therefore, there is no need or motivation to look at or use the Kawana connector to modify a conventional image forming apparatus.

The desirability to have such a connection is found only in the Applicant's own description of the invention, in contrast to the requirement that the teaching or suggestion to make the modification must be found in the prior art and not based on an applicant's disclosure. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based upon the combination of references is respectfully requested.

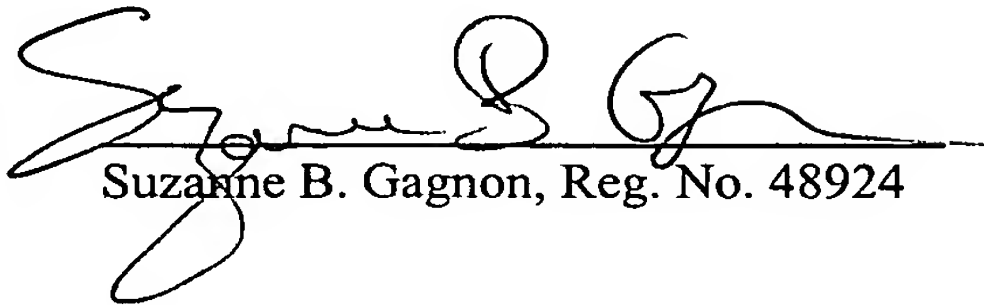
In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Appl. No. 10/618,031
Amdt. Dated June 6, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 7, 2005

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our
Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 35879.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 15, 16 and 18. These sheets, which include Figs. 15, 16 and 18, replace the original sheets including Figs. 15, 16 and 18. In Figs. 15, 16 and 18, the legend "Prior Art" has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets